

§ 654.13

§ 654.13 Determination of areas of substantial unemployment.

An area of substantial unemployment, for purposes of Executive Order 10582, shall be any area classified as a labor surplus area at § 654.5 of this part pursuant to the procedures set forth at subpart A of this part.

§ 654.14 Filing of complaints.

Complaints arising under subpart B of this part alleging that the Department of Labor has violated the labor surplus area regulations shall be made pursuant to the procedures set forth at § 654.9 of this part.

[48 FR 15616, Apr. 12, 1983]

Subparts C–D [Reserved]

Subpart E—Housing for Agricultural Workers

AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 49k; 8 U.S.C. 1188(c)(4); 41 Op.A.G. 406 (1959).

SOURCE: 45 FR 14182, Mar. 4, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

§ 654.400 Scope and purpose.

(a) This subpart sets forth the Employment and Training Administration standards for agricultural housing. Local Job Service offices, as part of the State employment service agencies and in cooperation with the United States Employment Service, assist employers in recruiting agricultural workers from places outside the area of intended employment. The experiences of the employment service indicate that employees so referred have on many occasions been provided with inadequate, unsafe, and unsanitary housing conditions. To discourage this practice, it is the policy of the Federal-State employment service system, as set forth in § 653.108 of this chapter, to deny its intrastate and interstate recruitment services to employers until the State employment service agency has ascertained that the employer's housing meets certain standards.

(b) To implement this policy, § 653.108 of this chapter provides that recruitment services shall be denied unless the employer has signed an assurance,

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a preoccupancy inspection has been conducted and the ES staff has ascertained that, with respect to intrastate clearance, if the workers are to be housed, the employer's housing meets or, with respect to interstate clearance, that the employer will provide housing for the workers which meets either the full set of standards set forth at 29 CFR 1910.142 or the full set of standards set forth in this subpart. Whichever is applicable under the criteria set forth in § 654.401; except that for mobile range housing for sheepherders, the housing shall meet existing Departmental guidelines.

[45 FR 14182, Mar. 4, 1980; 45 FR 22901, Apr. 4, 1980]

§ 654.401 Applicability; transitional provisions.

(a) Employers whose housing was constructed in accordance with the ETA housing standards may continue to follow the full set of ETA standards set forth in this subpart only where prior to April 3, 1980 the housing was completed or under construction, or where prior to March 4, 1980 a contract for the construction of the specific housing was signed.

(b) To effectuate these transitional provisions, agricultural housing to which this subpart applies and which complies with the full set of standards set forth in this subpart shall be considered to be in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration temporary labor camp standards at 29 CFR 1910.142.

§ 654.402 Variances.

(a) An employer may apply for a permanent, structural variance from a specific standard(s) in this subpart by filing a written application for such a variance with the local Job Service office serving the area in which the housing is located. This application must be filed by June 2, 1980 and must:

(1) Clearly specify the standard(s) from which the variance is desired;

(2) Provide adequate justification that the variance is necessary to obtain a beneficial use of an existing facility, and to prevent a practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship; and

(3) Clearly set forth the specific alternative measures which the employer

has taken to protect the health and safety of workers and adequately show that such alternative measures have achieved the same result as the standard(s) from which the employer desires the variance.

(b) Upon receipt of a written request for a variance under paragraph (a) of this section, the local Job Service office shall send the request to the State office which, in turn, shall forward it to the Regional Administrator, Employment and Training Administration (RA). The RA shall review the matter and, after consultation with OSHA, shall either grant or deny the request for a variance.

(c) The variance granted by the RA shall be in writing, shall state the particular standard(s) involved, and shall state as conditions of the variance the specific alternative measures which have been taken to protect the health and safety of the workers. The RA shall send the approved variance to the employer and shall send copies to the Regional Administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Regional Administrator of the Employment Standards Administration, and the appropriate State agency and the local Job Service office. The employer shall submit and the local Job Service office shall attach copies of the approved variance to each of the employer's job orders which is placed into intrastate or interstate clearance.

(d) If the RA denies the request for a variance, the RA shall provide written notice stating the reasons for the denial to the employer, the appropriate State agency and the local Job Service office. The notice shall also offer the employer an opportunity to request a hearing before a DOL Hearing Officer, provided the employer requests such a hearing from the RA within 30 calendar days of the date of the notice. The request for a hearing shall be handled in accordance with the employment service complaint procedures set forth at §§ 658.421 (i) and (j), 658.422 and 658.423 of this chapter.

(e) The procedures of paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section shall only apply to an employer who has chosen, as evidenced by its written request for a variance, to comply with the ETA

housing standards at §§ 654.404–654.417 of this subpart.

§ 654.403 Conditional access to the intrastate or interstate clearance system.

(a) *Filing requests for conditional access*—(1) “*Noncriteria*” employers. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, an employer whose housing does not meet applicable standards may file with the local Job Service office serving the area in which its housing is located, a written request that its job orders be conditionally allowed into the intrastate or interstate clearance system, provided that the employer's request assures that its housing will be in full compliance with the requirements of the applicable housing standards at least 20 calendar days (giving the specific date) before the housing is to be occupied.

(2) “*Criteria*” employers. If the request for conditional access described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section is from an employer filing a job order pursuant to an application for temporary alien agricultural labor certification for H-2A alien agricultural workers or H-2 alien workers under subpart B or subpart C, respectively, of part 655 of this chapter, the request shall be filed with the RA as an attachment to the application for temporary alien agricultural labor certification.

(3) *Assurance*. The employer's request pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section shall contain an assurance that the housing will be in full compliance with the applicable housing standards at least 20 calendar days (stating the specific date) before the housing is to be occupied.

(b) *Processing requests*—(1) *State agency processing*. Upon receipt of a written request for conditional access to the intrastate or interstate clearance system under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the local Job Service office shall send the request to the State office, which, in turn, shall forward it to the Regional Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, (RA).

(2) *Regional office processing and determination*. Upon receipt of a request for conditional access pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) or paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the RA shall review the matter